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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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# INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

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**REFERENCE COPY**

CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania

DO NOT CIRCULATE

DATE DISTR. 12 January 1953

SUBJECT

1. Assignment of Foreign Officers to the Albanian Army
2. School for Secret Agents in Tirana
3. Albanian Army Labor Battalions

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There have been rumors [ ] that the Soviet Army intends to evacuate Albania and to transfer their control work in Albania to the Bulgarians. There is absolutely no truth in this rumor, the origin of which may well be the fact that recently about 100 Bulgarian officers have been assigned to the Albanian Army in replacement of Russian officers returned, for undisclosed reasons, to the USSR. Also some former German officers from East Germany, who during the last war had been in Albania and know the country well, have been assigned to the Albanian Army. The presence of these foreigners caused great resentment, not only among the Albanian officers, but also in the Albanian Communist Party.

2. A new school for secret agents has been established in Tirana under Soviet direction. All the instructors are Russian. There are about 400 Albanian students there and also about 100 foreigners [redacted]

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[redacted] The students get thorough training in intelligence and sabotage work, and also study English and French; in fact, they are required to speak these languages fluently.

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3. In the Albanian Army, labor battalions have been established after the Soviet model. The Communist Party, in Albania as well as in other satellite countries, does not dare put weapons into the hands of young men who, due to their family background or other circumstances, cannot be trusted as whole-hearted adherents of the Communist regime. These persons are being assigned unarmed to labor battalions and are forced to do slave labor.

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